

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MOLYBDENUM IN FEBRUARY 2000

Domestic production of molybdenum in concentrate in February 2000 was about 13% less than that of the previous month and was 31% less than that of February 1999, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys are U.S. production and shipments of molybdenum concentrates and materials, plus U.S. consumption, by end use, and stocks, by material, of molybdenum in the previous and current months; also included are trade data for the previous month. During the current month,

Platt's Metals Week U.S. monthly average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$3.748 per kilogram (\$1.700 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$5.622 per kilogram (\$2.555 per pound), and that for dealer ferromolybdenum was \$7.606 per kilogram (\$3.450 per pound).

For the week ending April 24, 2000, Metals Week average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$5.600 per kilogram (\$2.540 per pound), and that for ferromolybdenum was \$7.606 per kilogram (\$3.450 per pound).

TABLE 1  
U.S. SALIENT MOLYBDENUM CONCENTRATE STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

	1999 p/ January- December	2000		Year to date
		January	February	
Production	43,700	3,020	2,630	5,650
Shipments: 2/				
Domestic	29,100	1,170	1,100	2,270
Export	12,400	1,260	1,190	2,450

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

2/ Includes molybdc oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 2  
U.S. REPORTED PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

	1999 p/ January- December	2000		Year to date
		January	February	
Gross production	39,800	3,570 r/	3,460	7,030
Internal consumption 2/	20,500	1,910 r/	1,920	3,830
Gross shipments	39,000	3,810	3,160	6,970

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

2/ Includes molybdc oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 3  
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdc oxides	Ferro molyb- denum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molyb- denum scrap	Other	Total
2000, January:						
Steel:						
Carbon	27,500	25,000	--	--	3,190	55,700
High-strength low-alloy	33,400	8,490	--	--	--	41,900
Stainless and heat-resisting	252,000	41,100	--	--	4,760	298,000
Full alloy	112,000	179,000	--	--	2,330	293,000
Tool	W	9,230	--	--	1,450	10,700
Total	425,000	262,000	--	--	11,700	699,000
Cast irons (gray, malleable, and ductile iron)	1,830	33,500	--	--	763	36,100
Superalloys	70,600	W	--	(3/)	94,600	165,000
Alloys: (other than steels, cast irons, and superalloys)						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	W	--	--	6	6
Other alloys	102	7,570	--	--	6,290	14,000
Mill products made from metal powder 4/	--	--	--	--	164,000	164,000
Cemented carbides and related products 5/	--	--	--	--	6	6
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	W	--	--	W
Catalysts	77,300	--	W	--	W	77,300
Other	W	--	--	--	1,710	1,710
Miscellaneous and unspecified uses:						
Lubricants	--	--	--	--	16,900	16,900
Other	84,500	907	85,000	--	14,900	185,000
Grand total	660,000	304,000	85,000	--	311,000	1,360,000
Stocks, December 31, 1999	812,000	188,000	7,170	42,700	866,000	1,920,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 3--Continued  
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdc oxides	Ferro molyb- denum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molyb- denum scrap	Other	Total
2000, February:						
Steel:						
Carbon	31,100	23,900	--	--	3,190	58,200
High-strength low-alloy	28,800	8,560	--	--	--	37,400
Stainless and heat-resisting	255,000	44,300	--	--	4,760	304,000
Full alloy	155,000	174,000	--	--	2,330	332,000
Tool	W	9,730	--	--	1,450	11,200
Total	471,000	261,000	--	--	11,700	743,000
Cast irons (gray, malleable, and ductile iron)	1,970	30,100	--	--	763	32,900
Superalloys	50,300	W	--	(3/)	70,600	121,000
Alloys: (other than steels, cast irons, and superalloys)						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	W	--	--	6	6
Other alloys	W	2,220	--	--	6,290	8,510
Mill products made from metal powder 4/	--	--	--	--	171,000	171,000
Cemented carbides and related products 5/	--	--	--	--	13	13
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	2,180	--	--	2,180
Catalysts	77,300	--	W	--	W	77,300
Other	W	--	--	--	1,710	1,710
Miscellaneous and unspecified uses:						
Lubricants	--	--	--	--	11,000	11,000
Other	89,100	5,130	73,700	--	14,900	183,000
Grand total	689,000	298,000	75,900	--	288,000	1,350,000
Stocks, January 31, 2000	764,000	191,000	5,190	44,700	852,000	1,860,000

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other" of the "Miscellaneous and unspecified uses" category. -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium molybdate.

3/ Included in "Other" of the "Superalloys" category.

4/ Includes ingot, wire, rod, and sheet.

5/ Includes construction, mining, oil and gas, metal working machinery.

TABLE 4  
U.S. EXPORTS OF MOLYBDENUM ORES AND CONCENTRATES  
(including roasted concentrate), BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1999		2000	
	January-December	December	January	Year to date
Australia	41,100	4,760	6,540	6,540
Belgium	4,740,000	487,000	193,000	193,000
Brazil	66,800	3,100	--	--
Canada	1,350,000	175,000	262,000	262,000
Chile	2,420,000	--	5,000	5,000
China	1,190,000	254,000	30,600	30,600
Germany	122,000	--	287,000	287,000
Italy	264,000	--	22,700	22,700
Japan	2,320,000	154,000	190,000	190,000
Korea, Republic of	210,000	8,690	590	590
Mexico	129,000	811	--	--
Netherlands	8,620,000	1,560,000	1,110,000	1,110,000
Spain	25,100	--	--	--
Sweden	613,000	11,800	94,100	94,100
United Kingdom	5,530,000	411,000	370,000	370,000
Other	207,000	58,600	590	590
Total	27,900,000	3,130,000	2,580,000	2,580,000

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5  
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROMOLYBDENUM, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

	1999		2000	
	January-December	December	January	Year to date
Australia	20,900	1,470	1,140	1,140
Canada	5,020,000	561,000	50,300	50,300
China	3,270,000	209,000	--	--
Japan	3,230,000	49,800	5,150	5,150
Korea, Republic of	168,000	11,000	--	--
Mexico	654,000	79,700	4,330	4,330
Other	8,470	599	--	--
Total	12,400,000	913,000	60,900	60,900

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Kilograms unless otherwise specified)

Material	January-December 1999			January 2000		
	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (c.i.f.) (thousands)	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (c.i.f.) (thousands)
Ore and concentrates roasted	8,020,000	5,090,000	\$39,600	1,060,000	654,000	\$3,740
Ore and concentrates other	2,710,000	1,480,000	7,810	529,000	307,000	1,610
Molybdenum chemicals:						
Oxides and hydroxides	1,180,000	NA	9,610	170,000	NA	934
Molybdates of ammonium	1,240,000	684,000	8,980	239,000	137,000	1,260
Molybdates (all others)	192,000	114,000	982	--	--	--
Molybdenum orange	2,050,000	NA	7,950	191,000	NA	941
Ferromolybdenum	7,690,000	4,830,000	44,000	705,000	456,000	3,100
Molybdenum powders	110,000	103,000	3,210	9,340	8,790	227
Molybdenum unwrought	145,000	137,000	2,110	5,650	5,640	103
Molybdenum waste and scrap	296,000	292,000	4,080	26,000	25,800	340
Molybdenum wire	5,530	NA	500	1,230	NA	61
Molybdenum other	7,850	NA	1,650	522	NA	73
Total	23,700,000	12,700,000	130,000	2,940,000	1,590,000	12,400

NA Not available. -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.